

Just Received

A large shipment of Ladies' Flannel and Spring Silk

Dresses

Just in time for the holidays. Specially low priced at

\$6.95 to \$11.75

The flannel dresses at \$11.75 are positively \$16.50 values.

NOVELTY CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

We wish all of our customers a very Merry Christmas



Compliments of the Season

SAM LEVY

NEW AND LARGER STORE SARTORI AVE. TORRANCE

Is Further Proof Necessary?

Every year thousands of people place tens of millions of their savings in Edison Securities.

Each year approximately 100,000 stock and bondholders receive unfailingly interest and dividends for the use of their money from this great organization.

This Company has been serving electric light and power for nearly 30 years in Southern and Central California.

For a Safe and Profitable Investment

Edison 7% Cumulative Preferred Stock

Authorized by the Railroad Commission of California

Price: \$105 per share cash \$106 at \$5 per share Per Month.

Southern California Edison Company

1415 Marcelina Ave. Phone 194 Torrance, Calif.

Hemmi Asserts His Innocence of Cash Crime

Attorney Makes Fervid Statement to People of Torrance

Convicted in federal court on charges of receiving stolen money, J. U. Hemmi, Torrance attorney, made the following statement today:

"To the Editor and the People of Torrance:

"I was convicted in federal court, but I am not guilty. This is not the first time that a jury rendered a wrong verdict.

"I was the victim of circumstances and machinations. It would require too much space to review all the facts. However, I will say that Mr. Abernathy (the arch conspirator), during the last three years that I knew him before the mail theft, always came to me with his best smile and best foot forward. I saw only the good side of him. I served him as attorney in three commission cases, and in other ways. In one case I brought suit to collect, and carried it through.

"After I left Anaheim I saw little of him—only two or three times in visits between the families. When he brought a lot of money in a satchel just after Christmas, 1923, he cheerfully and positively declared that he got it as a commission in a big deal, which the parties wished kept secret, and not to tell anybody, and therefore paid him in currency. He asked me to keep it a few days and then he returned and asked me to help him convert it into drafts, which I did. Nearly three weeks afterwards he was arrested, with two others, charged with stealing a lot of money from the mail at Anaheim. On his wife's call, I went to see him in jail. There he told me he had nothing to do with the mail theft; that he was in Los Angeles with his family the day it happened, and named the last home they visited in Los Angeles at between 5 and 5:30 p. m., and that they did not get back to Anaheim till 7 p. m., whereas the theft took place at 5:30 p. m. He also stated that he had witnesses who would prove where he got every dollar, and asked me to help his wife get him out on bail, and then he would take me to those witnesses. The jailer gave me but a few minutes with him, it being after closing time. I then went back to Anaheim, eight miles out of my way home, and asked his wife and mother-in-law if they were in Los Angeles that day, and at the Wilkerson home at 5 p. m., and she told me the same that he had stated. Her mother then added: 'Yes, I know it was very late when we left, for Joe turned on the lights just after leaving Los Angeles.'

"Even then, I felt that he should have a chance to prove his innocence. When I went to Missouri at the earnest pleading of himself and his wife to raise money for his defense, I there first learned of the contents of the letter that he wrote to his brother. I did not see the letter, but his brother asked me if there was a 'Hemmi Construction Company.' I told him I never heard of such a company before, and asked him how he came by it. He told me that Joe wrote it in the letter. I repeated that there was no such company that I ever heard about. Later in the day I had another talk with his brother, and told him I had concluded that Joe must have been in some way mixed in that mail theft, and that I was going back at once to try and induce him to come clean and plead guilty. He agreed that that was the right thing to do.

"On my return he, in the presence of my wife and son, after I told him what I learned in Missouri, and after I urged him to make a clean breast of it, and plead for mercy, protested, and declared that he was innocent, and that he could prove by witnesses where he got that money. A little later I urged his wife to induce him to come out with it, and then to his attorneys, but he refused. Then I gave the rest of the money to the officers and told them how I got it. This act on my part greatly vexed him and his wife. Only five weeks ago she wrote me a letter, stating that if I had not done that, Joe would not be where he is today. They blamed me for bringing that trouble upon them. How absurd!

"It is true, at his trial with Wheeler and Findlay the government introduced that money in evidence. Findlay confessed and told the whole story. Abernathy was convicted and Wheeler was acquitted. But they had lots of other evidence.

"In my case they had only circumstantial evidence, unless they could get him to give direct evidence to convict. No doubt they felt weak without Mr. Abernathy. 'At any rate, he was brought here from Kansas prison. He denied that he told me it was a commission, but that he said, he told me he made a big haul, which was untrue. He said that he told me in the Santa Ana jail that night that Findlay stole the money and gave him (Abernathy) part of it, and he in turn gave it to me, and denied that he told me about his trip with his family to Los Angeles on the day of the mail theft. How could I know about that trip if he had not told me. His dear, good mother-in-law went on the stand and testified that he told me about the mail and asked his wife and herself if they made such a trip that day. But the jury must have believed him, in part at least, and you know the verdict.

"I had a fair trial, as far as Judge James was concerned. His rulings and his statement of the law to the jury were strictly correct. He acted the part of a fair judge.

"I shall try to submerge any and every feeling of bitterness toward those who so unjustly maligned me, some out of revenge, and some for other possible reasons.

"In my dealings with Abernathy I acted foolishly, I know. I have often wondered since how it was possible that any man could so pull the wool over my eyes. I realize that I was in poor health at that time and had many cares. My weakened mental condition and my willing heart gave way to him who professed to be my best friend. Instead of a friend, he proved to be my worst enemy.

"I wish to thank all my friends who stood by me, and continue to do so. I cannot express to them what is in my heart. It will help me immensely to bear this terrible blow. In these expressions of thanks my wife joins me. She has been a great support to me, and so has my son and his dear wife. 'With malice toward none, 'Yours very truly, 'J. U. HEMMI."

Dance, Keystone Boosters' hall, Saturday, Dec. 27.—Adv.

Will Vaccinate Dogs for Rabies Here on Friday

Dr. H. H. Wolf, veterinarian, will be at the Torrance police station all next Friday for the purpose of vaccinating dogs against rabies. Several cases of rabies have been discovered in this district. Dr. Wolf has just completed a campaign of vaccination at Redondo.

Episcopal Parish Hall Nearly Ready

The members of the Episcopal mission in Torrance are rejoicing that at last they are going to have a place of their own in which to conduct services. The new parish hall on Encina avenue is rapidly nearing completion.

Moose Will Give Party on Dec. 31

The Loyal Order of Moose will hold a benefit dance at Moose hall on New Year's eve. A turkey will be given away. The Pacific Electric orchestra will furnish the music.

CATHOLIC Services for Christmas Day, Dec. 25:

High mass, 6 a. m. Mass, 7:30 and 9:30.

Dance, Keystone Boosters' hall, Saturday, Dec. 27.—Adv.

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Jury May Get Police 'Bribe' Case Tonight

(Continued from Page One)

the jurors to give it great weight. He asserted that Abbott was easily led and frightened by Anderson, not being a man of "high intellectual development."

Plas for Anderson Attorney Monteleone opened his plea with the statement that he would disregard Abbott's testimony for the reasons set forth by Mr. Van Cott.

Leaving out Abbott's testimony, he traced Anderson's activities throughout the affair, making a strong plea for the former chief. Pointing out that Anderson rebuked the five Compton men, he asked: "Why shouldn't he, when, five strong, they had jumped one of his fellow officers?"

He declared that the affidavit made by Dr. George P. Shidler was not introduced at the Torrance hearing because the law would not recognize it as admissible evidence. He contended that a pre-arrangement of the hearing had not been established by the evidence at the trial.

No Direct Evidence He stressed the fact that there was not one direct statement by any witness implicating Anderson.

He then launched an attack on Abbott's character. He characterized him as a poor sportsman, as evidenced by his request that Officer Phillips write a reckless driving ticket for the Compton men when he knew that Phillips had already expunged them.

"Next," said the attorney, "he enters the scene as a sneak, telling the five men, after the scene on Carson street, to come to the station and talk it over, and then at the station, with plenty of help around, bring them before a court."

"He next appears as a criminal," declared the attorney, "criminally discussing with Schenk a conspiracy to get money out of the Compton men."

"The next time he appears as a perjurer," said the lawyer, "testifying that he swore to a lie at the Torrance hearing."

Takes Up Testimony "So much for the man," said Monteleone, taking up the testimony in the case. "You have been told that Frymire gave Morewood \$750," he said, "and I think you will realize that Frymire was too good a business man to give a stranger that amount of money without knowing that the act which was to be performed would be done."

He asserted that the defense had proved that Abbott received \$350 instead of the \$150 which he said Anderson gave him. In this connection he referred to the fact that Abbott banked \$335 after the Torrance hearing.

"The whole truth of this affair," he concluded, "I hold in my hand. It is the affidavit made by Abbott at Attorney Richardson's office. The only club that Anderson held over Abbott's head when this affidavit was made was decency. And the making of this affidavit was the only decent thing that Abbott did in the whole transaction."

NOTICE OF FILING ASSESSMENT For the Work of Improvement of Columbia Court and Portions of Other Streets Provided for by Resolution of Intention No. 189, Passed August 18, 1924, and of the Time of Hearing as to Said Work and Assessment.

The undersigned the City Clerk of the City of Torrance, State of California, hereby gives notice that on December 19th, 1924, the Street Superintendent of said City, having made an assessment pursuant to direction and order of the Board of Trustees of said city to cover the sum due for the work performed and specified in the contract made under proceedings for the improvement of Columbia court and portions of other streets in the said City, initiated by Resolution of Intention No. 189, passed August 18th, 1924, filed the same with me.

I hereby fix Monday, January 19, 1924, at the hour of 7:00 o'clock P. M., as the time, and the Council Chamber of the Board of Trustees of the City of Torrance in the City Hall of said City, as the place, where and when all persons interested in the work done thereunder, or in the said assessment, will be heard by the Board of Trustees.

This notice will also be published by the undersigned twice in the Torrance Herald, a newspaper published in said city. The owners, the contractor or his assigns, and all other persons interested in the said work or in the said assessment, feeling aggrieved by any act or determination of the Superintendent of Streets or City Engineer in relation thereto, or who claim that the work has not been performed according to the Contract in a good and substantial manner, or who claim that any portion of the work for any reason was omitted or illegally included in the contract for the same, or having or making any objection to the correctness of the assessment or diagram or other act, determination or proceedings of the Superintendent of Streets or City Engineer, shall prior to the day fixed for the hearing upon the assessment appeal to the Board of Trustees by briefly stating in writing the grounds of appeal.

For a description of the said work reference is hereby made to the above mentioned Resolution No. 189, passed by the Board of Trustees of said City or Torrance August 18th, 1924.

A. H. BARTLETT, City Clerk of the City of Torrance, Calif. (Seal)

Advertisement for State Exchange Bank, 'THE COMMUNITY BANK', featuring a decorative border with a family scene and the text: 'AMONG our assets we like to count the one that money cannot buy—your good will. And so at this Holiday season we extend to you—not as a patron alone, but as a friend—the best of wishes for A Merry Christmas State Exchange Bank THE COMMUNITY BANK WE PAY 4% ON SAVINGS ACCOUNTS TORRANCE CALIF.'

Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Tonkin of Redondo Beach visited in Long Beach Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Geist and daughters Helen and LeVonne, of Redondo boulevard, were recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Mendelson of Maywood.

Too Late to Classify FOUND—Book of Christmas coupons. Apply at this office. WOMAN WANTED for housework, by the hour or day. Phone Redondo 3566.

Advertisement for RAPPAPORT'S TORRANCE, featuring a decorative border with a Christmas tree and the text: 'Wishing You Christmas Joys With full appreciation of the favors shown us by our friends and patrons we wish to offer them, each and all, our hearty good wishes for a very Merry Christmas Late shoppers will find that our large stock still offers many beautiful and useful Christmas Gifts RAPPAPORT'S TORRANCE'

OBSERVATIONS

(Continued from Page One)

lose their lives in a bus accident in the state of Washington. These two tragedies will not decrease the number of passengers on trains and buses. Fortunately all human beings are fatalists. If fear of accidents kept folks from moving about over the face of the earth, there would be no trains, no automobiles, no aeroplanes, no dirigibles, no bicycles—and no pedestrians.

COLUMN 7—Tom Connors, I. W. W. leader, convicted of attempting to influence a juror in a trial of asserted Wobblies under the anti-syndicalism act, is freed by a decision of the Third District Court of Appeals. The court ruled that the trial judge charged the jury in a manner "prejudicially erroneous." If that is true, Connors' trial was a miscarriage of justice and quite properly rectified by the higher court. Judges, more than any other individuals, must overcome personal prejudices. The stamping out of deep-rooted convictions and animadversions individually held is a difficult task for mortals, even for judges, and one which some, particularly some justices of the peace, meagerly versed in jurisprudence, never seem able to accomplish.

COLUMN 7—The city council of Los Angeles may propose a million-dollar bond issue for construction of a building for municipal courts, in order to avoid payment of \$50,000 a year, asked by the board of supervisors as rental for the portion of the new county hall of justice which the city planned to use. The supervisors base the rental on the cost of the building, said to be \$6,100,000. One wonders if a private corporation would have erected that building for less?

I have used too much space. "Why don't you write shorter editorials?" the editor of the New York Tribune once asked Frank Simonds, noted editorial writer. "Because I haven't time," replied Simonds.